

Titles Recommended to Book Clubs

Book List - updated January 2017

Allen, Lesley

The lonely life of Biddy Weir

9781785770388

NEW January 2017

Abandoned by her mother as a baby, Biddy lives in her own little world, happy to pass her time watching the birds - until Alison Flemming joins her school. Popular and beautiful, but with a dangerous streak, Alison quickly secures the admiration of her fellow students. All except one. And Alison doesn't take kindly to people who don't fit her mould.

Atkinson, Kate

Life after Life

9780552776639

What if you had the chance to live your life again and again, until you finally got it right? During a snowstorm in England in 1910, a baby is born and dies before she can take her first breath. During a snowstorm in England in 1910, the same baby is born and lives to tell the tale. What if there were second chances? And third chances? In fact an infinite number of chances to live your life? Would you eventually be able to save the world from its own inevitable destiny? And would you even want to? 'Life After Life' follows Ursula Todd as she lives through the turbulent events of the last century again and again. With wit and compassion, she finds warmth even in life's bleakest moments, and shows an extraordinary ability to evoke the past.

Austen, Jane

Sense and Sensibility

9780141439662

Jane Austen sets social snobbery against summer picnics; social rejection against the passion of real love. Her warm portrait of the relationship between two very different sisters contrasts her precise observation of vanity, selfishness and snobbery. This edition includes explanatory notes, and an introduction.

Barnes, Julian

The Noise of Time

9781784703325

NEW January 2017

In May 1937 a man in his early thirties waits by the lift of a Leningrad apartment block. He waits all through the night, expecting to be taken away to the Big House. Any celebrity he has known in the previous decade is no use to him now. And few who are taken to the Big House ever return. So begins Julian Barnes's first novel since his Booker-winning 'The Sense of an Ending'. A story

about the collision of art and power, about human compromise, human cowardice and human courage, it is the work of a true master.

Barnes, Julian

Pulse

9780099552475

The stories in Julian Barnes' long-awaited third collection are attuned to rhythms and currents: of the body, of love, illness and death, connections and conversations. Each character is bent to a pulse, propelled on by success and loss, by new beginnings and endings.

Bennett, Alan

Untold Stories

0571228313

'Untold Stories' is a collection of Alan Bennett's prose. The title piece is a poignant family memoir with an account of the marriage of his parents, the lives and deaths of his aunts and the uncovering of a long-held family secret. Also included are essays, reviews, lectures and reminiscences.

Bennett, Arnold

Anna of the Five Towns

0141184167

Set in the Potteries, the region in which Bennett spent much of his youth, this is the story of a miser's daughter who inherits a fortune. She stands out as a spirited, complex modern woman in a stifling and repressive society.

Burton, Jessie

The Miniaturist

9781447250937

NEW March 2016

On an autumn day in 1686, 18-year-old Nella Oortman knocks at the door of a grand house in the wealthiest quarter of Amsterdam. She has come from the country to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt, but instead she is met by his sharp-tongued sister, Marin. Only later does Johannes appear and present her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways. Nella is at first mystified by the closed world of the Brandt household, but as she uncovers its secrets she realizes the escalating dangers that await them all.

Burton, Jessie

The Muse

9781447250975

NEW January 2017

On a hot July day in 1967, Odelle Bastien climbs the stone steps of the Skelton gallery in London, ready for her luck to change. She has been employed as a typist by the glamorous and enigmatic Marjorie Quick, who unlocks a potential Odelle didn't realize she had. When a lost masterpiece arrives at the gallery, Quick seems to know more than she is prepared to reveal and Odelle is determined to unravel the truth. The painting's secret history lies in 1936 and a large house in rural Spain, where Olive Schloss, the daughter of a renowned art dealer, is harbouring ambitions of her own. Into this fragile paradise comes two strangers, who overturn the Schloss family with explosive and devastating consequences.

Coben, Harlan
Stay Close
9781409117223

Harlan Coben is back with a powerful psychological thriller that explores how our decisions define us and how our present selves are inescapably shaped by our pasts.

Dickens, Charles
Great Expectations
9781849904285

One of Dickens's greatest novels, 'Great Expectations' is also one of his most autobiographical stories, as the young protagonist Pip escapes from his troubled childhood experiences to learn for himself the perils of love, the dangers of wealth, and how to sort his friends from his enemies.

Doyle, Arthur Con
A Study in Scarlet
9780141034331

When Dr John Watson takes rooms in Baker Street with amateur detective Sherlock Holmes, he has no idea that he is about to enter a shadowy world of criminality and violence.

Edugyan, Esi
Half Blood Blues
9781846687761

1940. In the aftermath of the fall of Paris, Hieronymus Falk, a rising star on the cabaret scene, is arrested in a cafe and never heard from again. He is 20 years old, a German citizen and he is black. 50 years later, Sid - Hiero's bandmate and the only witness that day - is going back to Berlin, where they first met.

Extence, Gavin
The Universe versus Alex Woods
9781444765892

This is the story of 17-year-old Alex Woods, born to a clairvoyant mother and a phantom father, victim of an improbable childhood accident, who is stopped at Dover customs in possession of 113 grams of marijuana and the ashes of his best friend.

Faulks, Sebastian
A week in December
9780099458289

London, the week before Christmas, 2007. Over seven days we follow the lives of seven major characters. With daring skill, the novel pieces together the complex patterns and crossings of modern urban life.

Faulks, Sebastian
Where my Heart used to Beat
9780099549246
NEW July 2016

A tender, brutal and thoughtful portrait of a man and a century, which asks whether, given the carnage we've witnessed and inflicted over the past 100 years, people can ever be the same?

Ferris, Joshua
Then we Came to the End
9780141027630

'Then We Came to the End' is about how we spend our days and too many of our nights. It is about being away from friends and family, about sharing a stretch of stained carpet with a group of strangers we call colleagues. The novel is the story of your life, the story of our times.

Filer, Nathan
The Shock of the Fall
9780007491452

'The Shock of the Fall' is an extraordinary portrait of one man's journey through the spinning vortex that is mental illness. It is a brave and groundbreaking novel from one of the most exciting new voices in fiction.

Flanagan, Richard
The Narrow road to the deep North
9780099593584
NEW January 2017

Forever after, there were for them only two sorts of men: the men who were on the Line, and the rest of humanity, who were not. In the despair of a Japanese POW camp on the Burma Death Railway, surgeon Dorrigo Evans is haunted by his love affair with his uncle's young wife two years earlier. Struggling to save the men under his command from starvation, from cholera, from beatings, he

receives a letter that will change his life forever. Hailed as a masterpiece, Richard Flanagan's epic novel tells the unforgettable story of one man's reckoning with the truth.

Flynn, Gillian

Gone Girl

9780753827666

Nick Dunne's wife Amy suddenly disappears on the morning of their 5th anniversary. The police immediately suspect Nick. Amy's friends reveal that she was afraid of him. He swears it isn't true. A police examination of his computer shows strange searches. He says they aren't his. Then there are the persistent calls on his mobile phone.

Ford, Jamie

Hotel on the corner of bitter and sweet: a novel

9780749010720

In 1986, the belongings of Japanese families who were sent to internment camps in the US were discovered in the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle's Japantown. Henry, a Chinese American, remembers a young Japanese American girl with whom he forged a bond of friendship as a youth, and so he embarks on a journey of self-discovery.

Fox, Essie

The Somnamulist

9781409121190

When 17-year-old Phoebe Turner visits Wilton's Music Hall to watch her Aunt Cissy performing on stage, she risks the wrath of her mother Maud who marches with the Hallelujah Army, campaigning for all London theatres to close. While there, Phoebe is drawn to a stranger, the enigmatic Nathaniel Samuels.

Franta, Connor

A work in progress: A memoir

9781476791616

In this intimate memoir of life beyond the camera, Connor Franta shares the lessons he has learned on his journey from small-town boy to Internet sensation - so far. Here, Connor offers a look at his Midwestern upbringing as one of four children in the home and one of five in the classroom; his struggles with identity, body image, and sexuality in his teen years; and his decision to finally pursue his creative and artistic passions in his early twenties, setting up his thrilling career as a YouTube personality, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and tastemaker.

French, Dawn

A Tiny bit Marvellous

9780141046341

This is a poignant novel by Dawn French which is told through the eyes of a mother and her two teenage children. Each chapter is narrated by a different voice, telling the story of a modern family, all living in their own separate bubbles, lurching towards meltdown.

Furst, Alan

Spies of the Balkans

9780753827260

From the author of 'The Spies of Warsaw' comes another spy novel set in the Second World War. This time, the action takes place in the countryside of Macedonian Greece. Our lead characters are a British travel writer and a police official in Salonika.

Galbraith, Robert

The Cuckoo's Calling

9780751549256

Written under a pseudonym by J.K. Rowling, this gripping, elegant mystery is steeped in the atmosphere of London. A war veteran wounded both physically and psychologically, Cormoran Strike's life is in disarray but the case he is working on gives him a lifeline, despite coming at a personal cost.

Gudenkauf, Heather

The Weight of Silence

9780778303695

Brought on by a tragedy experienced as a toddler, Calli Clark, suffers from selective mutism. Her mother Antonia tries her best to help, but is confined by marriage to a violent husband. Petra Gregory is Calli's best friend and her voice. But neither Petra or Calli have been heard from since their disappearance was discovered.

Gruen, Sara

Water for Elephants

9781444716009

When Jacob Jankowski - recently orphaned and suddenly adrift - jumps onto a passing train, he enters a world of freaks, grifters and misfits in the form of the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth, a travelling circus struggling to survive the Great Depression.

Haig, Matt

The Radleys

9781847678614

'The Radleys' are an everyday family who juggle dysfunctional lives. Except, as Peter and Helen Radley know, but their children have yet to find out, the Radleys happen to be a family of abstaining vampires. When one night Clara

finds herself driven to commit a bloodthirsty act, her parents decide to explain a few things.

Harari, Yuval Noah

Sapiens: A brief history of humankind

9780099590088

100,000 years ago, at least six human species inhabited the earth. Today there is just one. Us. How did our species succeed in the battle for dominance? Why did our foraging ancestors come together to create cities and kingdoms? How did we come to believe in gods, nations and human rights; to trust money, books and laws; and to be enslaved by bureaucracy, timetables and consumerism? And what will our world be like in the millennia to come? Bold, wide-ranging and provocative, 'Sapiens' challenges everything we thought we knew about being human: our thoughts, our actions, our power ... and our future.

Harris, Joanne

Blue Eyed Boy

9780552773164

Once there was a widow with three sons, and their names were Black, Brown and Blue. Black was the eldest; moody and aggressive. Brown was the middle child, timid and dull. But Blue was his mother's favourite. And he was a murderer.

Harrison, A. S. A.

The Silent Wife

9780755399864

Todd Gilbert and Jodie Brett are in a bad place in their relationship. They've been together for 28 years, and with no children to worry about there has been little to disrupt their affluent Chicago lifestyle. But there has also been little to hold it together, and beneath the surface lie ever-widening cracks.

Haynes, Elizabeth

Into the Darkest Corner

9780956251572

This is an edgy and powerful first novel, utterly convincing in its portrayal of obsession, and a tour de force of suspense.

Healey, Emma

Elizabeth is Missing

9780241968185

NEW December 2016

Elizabeth is missing', reads the note in Maud's pocket in her own handwriting. Lately, Maud's been getting forgetful. She keeps buying peach slices when she has a cupboard full, forgets to drink the cups of tea she's made and writes notes to remind herself of things. But Maud is determined to discover what has happened to her friend, Elizabeth, and what it has to do with the unsolved disappearance of her sister Sukey, years back, just after the war.

Henderson, Emma

Grace Williams says it Loud

9781444704013

This isn't an ordinary love story. But then Grace isn't an ordinary girl. On her first day at the Briar Mental Institute, Grace meets Daniel. He sees someone to share secrets and canoodle with, someone to fight for. This is Grace's story: her life, its betrayals and triumphs, the disappointment and loss, the taste of freedom.

Hill, Susan

The Woman in Black

9780099562979

When Arthur Kipps attends the funeral of Alice Drablow he is unaware of the tragic secrets which lie hidden behind her house. It is not until he glimpses a woman dressed all in black at the funeral that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold.

Hislop, Victoria

The Sunrise

9780755377800

In 1972, Famagusta in Cyprus is the most desirable resort in the Mediterranean. Tourism and commerce boom in the city, with Greek and Turkish Cypriots living and working harmoniously side by side. Elsewhere on the island, there has been a decade of unrest and violence between the communities and in 1974, following a Greek military coup, Turkey invades the island to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority. As Famagusta is shelled, its population flees. In the now deserted city, just two families are left behind. 'The Sunrise' tells the story of this small group living in hiding.

Hislop, Victoria

The Thread

9780755377756

Thessaloniki, 1917. As Dimitri Komninos is born, a devastating fire sweeps through the Greek city where Christians, Jews and Muslims live side by side. 5 years later, Katerina Sarafoglou's home in Asia Minor is destroyed by the Turkish army. Losing her mother in the chaos, she flees across the sea to an unknown destination in Greece.

Hodgkinson, Amanda
22 Britannia Road
9780141399676

At the end of the war, Silvana and eight-year-old Aurek board the ship that will take them from Poland to England. After living wild in the forests for years, carrying a terrible secret, all Silvana knows is that she and Aurek are survivors. Everything else is lost.

Holmes, A. M.
May we be Forgiven
9781847083234

Harry is a Richard Nixon scholar who leads a quiet, regular life; his brother George is a high-flying TV producer, with a murderous temper. They have been uneasy rivals since childhood. Then one day George loses control so extravagantly that he precipitates Harry into an entirely new life.

Ishiguro, Kazuo
The Buried Giant
9780571315079
NEW January 2017

'The Buried Giant' begins as a couple set off across a troubled land of mist and rain in the hope of finding a son they have not seen in years. Sometimes savage, often intensely moving, Kazuo Ishiguro's first novel in a decade is about lost memories, love, revenge and war.

Ivey, Eowyn
The Snow Child
9780755380534

Jack and Mabel have staked everything on making a fresh start in the raw Alaskan wilderness. In a moment of tenderness, the pair build a snowman - or rather a snow girl - together. The next morning, all trace of her has disappeared. But Jack can't shake the notion that he glimpsed a small figure running in the trees in the dawn light.

James, E. L.
Grey
9781784753252

Christian Grey exercises control in all things; his world is neat, disciplined, and utterly empty - until the day that Anastasia Steele falls into his office, in a tangle of shapely limbs and tumbling brown hair. He tries to forget her, but instead is swept up in a storm of emotion he cannot comprehend and cannot resist. Unlike any woman he has known before, shy, unworldly Ana seems to see right through him - past the business prodigy and the penthouse lifestyle to Christian's cold, wounded heart. Will being with Ana dispel the horrors of his childhood that haunt Christian every night? Or will his dark sexual desires, his

compulsion to control, and the self-loathing that fills his soul drive this girl away and destroy the fragile hope she offers him?

Joyce, Rachel

The Love Songs of Miss Queenie Hennessy

9781784160302

When Queenie Hennessy discovers that Harold Fry is walking the length of England to save her, and all she has to do is wait, she is shocked. Her note to him had explained she was dying from cancer. How can she wait? A new volunteer at the hospice suggests that Queenie should write again; only this time she must tell Harold the truth. Composing this new message, the volunteer promises, will ensure Queenie hangs on. It will also atone for the secrets of the past. As the volunteer points out, 'It isn't Harold who is saving you. It is you, saving Harold Fry.' This is that letter. A letter that was never sent. Told in simple, emotionally-honest prose, with a mischievous bite, this is a novel about the journey we all must take to learn who we are; it is about loving and letting go.

Joyce, Rachel

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

9780552778091

When Harold Fry nips out one morning to post a letter, leaving his wife Hoovering upstairs, he has no idea that he is about to walk from one end of the country to the other. He has no hiking boots or map, let alone a compass, waterproof or mobile phone. All he knows is that he must keep walking. To save someone else's life.

Kalanithi, Paul

When Breath becomes Air

9781784701994

NEW January 2017

You are a young neurosurgeon. You have completed 11 years of training. You are devoted to your work and on the brink of a wonderful career. Then you are diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. 'When Breath Becomes Air' is an unforgettable reflection on the practice of medicine and the relationship between doctor and patient, from a gifted writer who became both.

Kane, Jessica Francis

The Report

9781846272806

In March 1943, 173 people died on the steps of a London tube station while seeking shelter from an air raid. The job of compiling the report on the tragedy falls to magistrate Laurence Dunn, and he uncovers a precarious - even damaging - truth which forces him to question which path to take.

Kelly, Erin
The Poison Tree
9781444701050

It is the sweltering summer of 1997 and Karen is a strait-laced, straight-A university student. When she meets the impossibly glamorous Biba, a bohemian orphan who lives in a crumbling old mansion in Highgate with her enigmatic brother Rex, she is soon drawn into their world - but something terrible is about to happen.

Kerrigan, Kate
Ellis Island
9780330507523

Ellie loves working in New York, earning money to pay for her crippled husband's operation. When her father dies she must return home to Ireland. She intends to sort her affairs quickly, but her sense of duty kicks in. She decides, painfully, that she must stay to look after her mother and resume her marriage.

King, Stephen
Duma Key
9780340978030

When Edgar Freemantle moves to Duma Key to escape his past, he doesn't expect to find much there. But Duma Key and its mysteries have been waiting for him. The shells beneath his house are whispering to him, and something in the view from his window urges him to discover a talent he never knew he had.

Lawrenson, Deborah
The Lantern
9781409135487

When Eve falls for the secretive, charming Dom in Switzerland, their whirlwind relationship leads them to purchase an abandoned house in a rural hamlet in the south of France. As the beautiful Provence summer turns to autumn, Eve finds it impossible to ignore the mysteries that haunt both her lover and the run-down old house.

Lee, Harper
Go set a Watchman
9781784752460
NEW June 2016

This novel is set during the mid-1950s and features many of the characters from 'To Kill a Mockingbird' some twenty years before. Scout (Jean Louise Finch) has returned to Maycomb from New York to visit her father Atticus. She is forced to grapple with issues both personal and political as she tries to understand both her father's attitude toward society, and her own feelings about the place where she was born and spent her childhood.

Lindsay, Joan
Picnic at Hanging Rock
9780099750611

On St Valentine's day in 1900, a party of Australian schoolgirls set off with two schoolmistresses on a picnic to a place called Hanging Rock. Some were never to return. What began as a pleasant and happy day out ends in terror.

Lovric, Michelle
The Book of Human Skin
9781408809648

12-year-old Minguillo, who has already contrived to lose one sibling, is listening to the birth-cries of his new sister Marcella, a threat to his inheritance. Minguillo's jealousy will condemn his sister to a series of fates as a cripple, a madwoman and a nun. But Marcella is not quite the soft target Minguillo imagines.

Lupton, Rosamund
Afterwards
9780749942168

Black smoke stains a summer blue sky. A school is on fire. And one mother, Grace, knows there is a girl still inside. It's her daughter, Jenny. Grace does what any mother would do - runs to find her. Afterwards, Grace must fight to save her family and find the person who is intent on destroying them.

McCleen, Grace
The Land of Decoration
9780099565741

10-year-old Judith McPherson's world is regimented by her father's faith. Her mother was fun and liked making things, but she has gone, so Judith consoles herself with 'The Land of Decoration' - an intricate model of The Promised Land which she has built in her bedroom. Through the model, Judith realises she can perform miracles.

Macdonald, Helen
H is for Hawk
9780099575450
NEW March 2016

As a child Helen Macdonald was determined to become a falconer. She learned the arcane terminology and read all the classic books, including T.H. White's tortured masterpiece, 'The Goshawk', which describes White's struggle to train a hawk as a spiritual contest. When her father dies and she is knocked sideways by grief, she becomes obsessed with the idea of training her own goshawk. She buys Mabel on a Scottish quayside and takes her home to Cambridge. This book is a record of a spiritual journey - an unflinchingly honest

account of Macdonald's struggle with grief during the difficult process of the hawk's taming and her own untaming.

McEwan, Ian
Sweet Tooth
9780099578789

Serena Frome, the beautiful daughter of an Anglican bishop, has a brief affair with an older man during her final year at Cambridge, and finds herself being groomed for the intelligence services.

McGregor, Jon
Even the Dogs
9781408809471

On a still, freezing day between Christmas and New Year, a man's body is found lying in his ruined flat. In the days that follow, those who knew him recreate his neglected life and look on as his body is examined, investigated and cremated. And as they watch, their own stories unfurl layer by layer.

McLain, Paula
Paris Wife
9781844086689

Chicago, 1920: Hadley Richardson is a quiet 28-year-old who has all but given up on love and happiness, until she meets Ernest Hemingway. After a whirlwind courtship and wedding, the pair set sail for Paris, where they soon fall in with a circle of lively and volatile expatriates, including F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald and Ezra Pound.

MacMillan, Angela
A little, aloud: an anthology of prose and poetry for reading aloud to someone you care for
9780701185633

This unique book offers a selection of prose and poetry especially suitable for reading aloud - to your husband or wife, a sick parent or child, or an elderly relative.

McPartin, Anna
The last days of Rabbit Hayes
9780552773744
NEW May 2016

Mia 'Rabbit' Hayes is a fighter, and the heart of her adoring, chaotic family. The cancer that's slowly taken over her body may be resolute, but Rabbit is stubborn too - she will not acknowledge that her diagnosis has just rapidly plummeted, or share this news with her 12-year-old daughter, Juliet. It would mean the

beginning of saying goodbye, and neither is ready for that just yet. As Rabbit's family rally round her, armed with black humour and relentless optimism, they can see she's fading away. Soon the truth is clutching at them all: that against every fierce hope and heartfelt instinct, they will have to let her go.

Magnan, Pierre
The Murdered House
0099448726

At the turn of the century, in a remote inn in Upper Provence, a family is violently massacred. The sole survivor of the tragedy is a three-week-old baby. In 1920, the orphaned survivor, Seraphin Monge, returns home to discover the truth.

Maksik, Alexander
You Deserve Nothing
9781848545724

'You Deserve Nothing' is told in three voices: that of Will, a charismatic young teacher; Gilad, one of Will's students who has grown up behind compound walls in places like Dakar and Dubai; and Marie, the beautiful, vulnerable senior with whom Will is having an illicit affair.

Mandanna, Sarita
Tiger Hills
9780753827796

THE THORN BIRDS meets A SUITABLE BOY in this epic tale of a forbidden love that will last for generations.

Mantel, Hilary
Bring up the Bodies
9780007315109

The sequel to 'Wolf Hall', 'Bring up the Bodies' explores one of the most mystifying and frightening episodes in English history: the destruction of Anne Boleyn.

Martel, Yann
Life of Pi
9780857865533

Pi lives in Pondicherry, India, where his father owns the city's zoo. The family decides to immigrate to Canada, but tragedy strikes at sea. In the lifeboat are five survivors: Pi, a hyena, a zebra, a female orangutan & a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger.

Miller, Andrew
Snowdrops
9781848874534

'Snowdrops' is a chilling story of love and moral freefall - of the corruption, by a corrupt society, of a corruptible young man. It is taut, intense and has a momentum as irresistible to the reader as the moral danger that first enchants, then threatens to overwhelm, its narrator.

Mitchell, David
The Bone Clocks
9780340921623

One drowsy summer's day in 1984, teenage runaway Holly Sykes encounters a strange woman who offers a small kindness in exchange for 'asylum'. Decades will pass before Holly understands exactly what sort of asylum the woman was seeking.

Mitchell, David
Cloud Atlas
9780340822784

A reluctant voyager crossing the Pacific in 1850, and a young Pacific Islander witnessing the nightfall of science and civilization - these and the other narrators of 'Cloud Atlas' hear each other's echoes down the corridor of history, and their destinies are changed in ways great and small.

Moggach, Lottie
Kiss me First
9781447233206

Leila has never met Tess, but she knows more about Tess than anyone in the world. Tess has never met Leila, but she is about to trust Leila with her life. One of them has never really lived, the other can't face living any more. Together they concoct the perfect lie, but how long will it survive?

Moriarty, Liane
The Husband's Secret
9781405911665

Imagine your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret - something with the potential to destroy not just the life you built together, but the lives of others too. Imagine, then, that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive!

Morrall, Clare
The Man who Disappeared
9780340994290

What would you do if, out of the blue, your reliable husband disappears? Then you are told he has been involved in money-laundering. Surely the man you know intimately couldn't be a criminal - could he?

Mortimer, John
Paradise Postponed
9780141049526

Why does Simeon Simcox, the CND-marching Rector of Rapstone Fanner, leave his fortune not to his two sons but to an odious Tory Minister? Mortimer's novel unveils the follies and passions of an astonishing array of characters and English life.

Munro, Alice
Dear Life
9780099578635

Alice Munro captures the essence of life in this collection of stories. Moments of change, chance encounters, the twist of fate that leads a person to a new way of thinking or being: the stories in 'Dear Life' build to form a radiant, indelible portrait of just how dangerous and strange ordinary life can be.

Nicholls, David
One Day
9780340896983

15th July 1988. Emma and Dexter meet for the first time on the night of their graduation. Tomorrow they must go their separate ways. So where will they be on this one day next year? The year after that and every year that follows?

Nicholson, William
The Secret Intensity of Everyday Life
9781849161954

Laura is content enough with her marriage and her children and her part-time job - until a long-ago lover comes back into her life. Suddenly she remembers how once her life was passionate, and realises how the excitement has faded. How much happiness is she entitled to expect?

Nugent, Liz
Lying in Wait
9780241974063
NEW January 2017

The last people who expect to be meeting with a drug-addicted prostitute are a respected judge and his reclusive wife. And they certainly don't plan to kill her and bury her in their exquisite suburban garden. Yet Andrew and Lydia Fitzsimons find themselves in this unfortunate situation. While Lydia does all

she can to protect their innocent son Laurence and their social standing, her husband begins to fall apart. But Laurence is not as naive as Lydia thinks. And his obsession with the dead girl's family may be the undoing of his own.

O'Farrell, John

The Man who forgot his Wife

9780552771634

When forty-something Vaughan suffers total memory loss, he is told that his breakdown has probably been triggered by his marital problems. But then he comes face to face with the stranger he's supposed to be divorcing - and promptly falls head over heels in love with her.

O'Flynn, Catherine

The News Where You Are

9780141046365

This is the touching story of Frank, a local TV news presenter. Beneath his awkwardly corny screen persona, Frank is haunted by disappearances - the mysterious hit and run that killed his predecessor, the demolition of his father's architecture and the unmarked passing of those who die alone in the city.

Oliver, Lauren

Delirium

9780340980934

Lena Haloway has always looked forward to the day when she'll be cured. A life without love is a life without pain: safe, measured, predictable, and happy. But then, with only 95 days left until her treatment, Lena does the unthinkable!

Overton, Hollie

Baby Doll

9781784753467

NEW January 2017

Lily was abducted from outside her high-school gates. For eight long years she's been locked away from the outside world. During that time she's changed from a girl into a woman. She's had a baby. And now she has seized her chance and escaped. Running for her life, with her daughter in her arms, she returns to her family and the life she used to know - to her much-loved twin sister Abby, her mum, her high-school boyfriend - and her freedom. But is it possible to go back? Lily's perfect life as a teenager doesn't exist any more. Since she's been gone, her family's lives have changed too, in ways she never could have imagined. Her return, and the revelation of who took her, will send shockwaves through the whole community.

Plampin, Matthew

The Devil's Acre

9780007273973

After a triumphant display at London's Great Exhibition, American entrepreneur Colonel Samuel Colt expands his gunmaking business into England. But his good intentions are not all they appear, and intrigue, betrayal and murder ensue. This title was previously published as 'The Gun-Maker's Gift'.

Quinn, Anthony

Half of the Human Race

9780099531944

It is the Summer of 1911, the streets of London ring with cheers for a new King's coronation and the cries of increasingly violent suffragette protests. Connie Callaway wants more than the conventional comforts of marriage - she is determined to fight for the greatest cause the world has ever known.

Roth, Philip

Exit Ghost

9780099516088

Like Rip Van Winkle returning to his hometown to find that all has changed, Nathan Zuckerman comes back to New York, the city he left 11 years ago. Alone on his New England mountain, Nathan has been nothing but a writer: no voices, no media, no terrorist threats, no women, no news, no tasks other than his work and the enduring of old age.

Ryan, Donal

The Spinning Heart

9781781620083

In the aftermath of Ireland's financial collapse, dangerous tensions surface in an Irish town. As violence flares, the characters face a battle between public persona and inner desires. Through a chorus of unique voices, each struggling to tell their own kind of truth, a single authentic tale unfolds. 'The Spinning Heart' speaks for contemporary Ireland like no other novel. Wry, vulnerable, all-too human, it captures the language and spirit of rural Ireland and with uncanny perception articulates the words and thoughts of a generation.

Sahota, Sunjeev

The year of the Runaways

9781447241652

NEW January 2017

Three young men live in a house in Sheffield, each in flight from India and in desperate search of a new life. Tochi, a former rickshaw driver, will say nothing about his past in Bihar and Avtar has a secret that binds him to protect the chaotic Randeep. Randeep, in turn, has a visa-wife in a flat on the other side of town: a clever, devout woman whose cupboards are full of her husband's clothes - in case the immigration men surprise her with a call. She is Narinder, and her story is the most surprising of them all.

Salinger, J. D.
The Catcher in the Rye
014023750X

A 16-year old American boy relates in his own words the experiences he goes through at school and after, and reveals with unusual candour the workings of his own mind. What does a boy in his teens think and feel about his teachers, parents, friends and acquaintances?

Sanderson, Jane
Netherwood
9780751547634

Yorkshire, 1904. Eve Williams is about to discover just how the other half really live. Above stairs, Lord Netherwood keeps his considerable fortune ticking over with the profits from his three coal mines in the vicinity. It's just as well the coal is of the highest quality as the upkeep of Netherwood Hall doesn't come cheap.

Sansom, C. J.
Lamentation
9780330511049

Summer, 1546. King Henry VIII is slowly, painfully dying. His Protestant and Catholic councillors are engaged in a final and decisive power struggle; whoever wins will control the government of Henry's successor, eight-year-old Prince Edward. As heretics are hunted across London, and the radical Protestant Anne Askew is burned at the stake, the Catholic party focus their attack on Henry's sixth wife, Matthew Shardlake's old mentor, Queen Catherine Parr. Shardlake, still haunted by events aboard the warship Mary Rose the year before, is working on the Cotterstoke Will case, a savage dispute between rival siblings. Then, unexpectedly, he is summoned to Whitehall Palace and asked for help by his old patron, the now beleaguered and desperate Queen.

Sarginson, Saskia
The Twins
9780749958695

Isolte and Viola are twins. Inseparable as children, they've grown into very different adults: Isolte, a successful features writer for a fashion magazine with a photographer boyfriend and a flat in London, and Viola, desperately unhappy and struggling with a lifelong eating disorder. What happened all those years ago to set the twins on such different paths to adulthood?

Shepherd, Lynn
Tom-All-Alone's
9781780331690

London, 1850. Fog in the air and filth in the streets, from the rat-infested graveyard of Tom-All-Alone's to the elegant chambers in Lincoln's Inn Fields, where the lawyer Edward Tulkinghorn has powerful clients to protect, and a

deadly secret to hide. Only that secret is now under threat from a shadowy and unseen adversary.

Shreve, Anita
A Change in Attitude
9780349120591

Margaret and Patrick have been married just a few months when they travel to Kenya with the intention of staying a year. In a dizzying multicultural city, she struggles to maintain her balance as her sense of self, her marriage, and her understanding of the world are shaken to the core.

Shriver, Lionel
Big Brother
9780007271108

When Pandora picks up her older brother Edison at her local Iowa airport, she literally doesn't recognise him. Edison's slovenly habits, appalling diet and know-it-all monologues drive her health-and-fitness freak husband Fletcher insane. Fletcher eventually delivers his wife an ultimatum - it's him or me. Putting her marriage and two adoptive children on the line, Pandora chooses her brother - who, without her support in losing weight, will surely eat himself into an early grave.

Shriver, Lionel
We Need to Talk about Kevin
9781846687341

Who is to blame for teenage atrocity? Narrator Eva Khatchadourian's son, Kevin, murdered seven of his fellow high school students, a cafeteria worker, and the much-loved teacher who tried to befriend him. This novel is an examination of the effect tragedy has on a town, a marriage and a family.

Skloot, Rebecca
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
9780330533447

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer whose cancer cells became one of the most important tools in medicine. Rebecca Skloot takes the reader on an extraordinary journey in search of Henrietta's story.

Speller, Elizabeth
The return of Captain John Emmett
9781844086092

Following the death of his wife and baby and his experiences on the Western Front, Laurence Bartram has become something of a recluse. When a young woman he once knew persuades him to look into events that apparently led her

brother, John Emmett, to kill himself, Laurence is forced to revisit the darkest parts of the war.

Swallow, James

Nomad

9781785760433

NEW January 2017

Marc Dane is a MI6 field agent at home behind a computer screen, one step away from the action. But when a brutal attack on his team leaves Marc as the only survivor - and with the shocking knowledge that there are traitors inside MI6 - he's forced into the front line. However the evidence seems to point towards Marc as the perpetrator of the attack. Accused of betraying his country, he must race against time to clear his name. With nowhere to turn to for help and no one left to trust, Marc is forced to rely on the elusive Rubicon group and their operative Lucy Keyes. Ex US Army, Lucy also knows what it's like to be an outsider, and she's got the skills that Marc is sorely lacking. A terrorist attack is coming, one bigger and more deadly than has ever been seen before. With the eyes of the security establishment elsewhere, only Lucy and Marc can stop the attack before it's too late.

Toibin, Colm

Nora Webster

9780141041759

NEW March 2016

It is the 1960s and Nora Webster is living with her two young sons in a small town on the east coast of Ireland. The love of her life, Maurice, has just died so she must work out how to forge a new life for herself. As Nora returns to memories of the happiness of her early marriage, something more painful begins to intrude: memories of her own mother and what brought about the terrifying distance between them.

Towles, Amor

Rules of Civility

9781444708875

In a jazz bar on the last night of 1937, watching a quartet because she couldn't afford to see the whole ensemble, there were certain things Katey Kontent knew. By the end of the year she'd learned - how to launch a paper airplane high over Park Avenue, how to live like a redhead, and how to insist upon the very best.

Tremain, Rose

The Road Home

9780099478461

Lev is on his way to Britain to seek work, so that he can send money back to eastern Europe to support his mother and little daughter. He struggles with the mysterious rituals of 'Englishness', and the fashions and fads of the London

scene. We see the road Lev travels through his eyes, and we share his dilemmas.

Waters, Sarah
The Paying Guests
9780349004600

There came the splash of water and the rub of heels as Mrs Barber stepped into the tub. After that there was a silence, broken only by the occasional echoey plink of drips from the tap. Frances had been picturing her lodgers in purely mercenary terms - as something like two great waddling shillings. But this, she thought, was what it really meant to have paying guests: this odd, unintimate proximity, this rather peeled-back moment, where the only thing between herself and a naked Mrs Barber was a few feet of kitchen and a thin scullery door. An image sprang into her head: that round flesh, crimsoning in the heat.

Watson, S J
Before I go to Sleep
9780552164139

Memories define us. So what if you lost yours every time you went to sleep? Your name, your identity, your past, even the people you love - all forgotten overnight. And the one person you trust may only be telling you half the story. Welcome to Christine's life.

Wax, Ruby
A mindfulness guide for the Frazzled
9780241972069
NEW January 2017

500 years ago no-one died of stress: we have invented this concept and now we let it rule us. Rest has become a dirty word, and our idea of satisfaction is answering the last email. We're sleepwalking through our own lives. Ruby Wax shows us how to wake up from this stupor with a scientific solution to modern problems: mindfulness. Outrageously witty, smart and accessible, Ruby Wax shows ordinary people how and why to change for good.

Wells, H. G.
The Invisible Man
014143998X

H.G. Wells' classic tale of the dangers of science describes a man cast out from society by his own terrifying discovery. A brilliant scientist, obsessed with achieving invisibility, he is prepared to do anything to protect his discovery, and terrorizes the village where he has sought refuge in the process.

De Witt, Patrick
The Sisters Brothers
9781847083197

From the author of 'Ablutions', 'The Sisters Brothers' is an offbeat Western about a reluctant assassin and his murderous brother who are on the trail of a man named Hermann Kermit Warm. On the way, the brothers have a series of unsettling and violent experiences in the Darwinian landscape of Gold Rush America.

Wodehouse, P. G.
Something Fresh
9780099513780

The one thing that could be expected to disturb the peace of life at Blandings is the incursion of imposters. Blandings has imposters like other houses have mice. On this occasion there are two of them - both intent on a dangerous enterprise.

Wood, Monica
The one-in-a-million Boy
9781472228383
NEW January 2017

Miss Ona Vitkus has - aside from three months in the summer of 1914 - lived unobtrusively, her secrets fiercely protected. The boy, with his passion for world records, changes all that. He is 11. She is 104 years, 133 days old (they are counting). And he makes her feel like she might be really special after all. Better late than never - only it's been two weeks now since he last visited, and she's starting to think he's not so different from all the rest. Then the boy's father comes, for some reason determined to finish his son's good deed. And Ona must show this new stranger that not only are there odd jobs to be done, but a life's ambition to complete.

Worth, Jennifer
Call the Midwife
9780753827871

Jennifer Worth was just 22 years old when she volunteered to spend her early years of midwifery training in London's East End in the 1950s. These stories encompass the whole spectrum of human emotions, and candidly reveal the shocking truth of childbirth conditions just 50 years ago.